

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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Jersey City to Host 19th Annual Artists Studio Tour

A Weekend of Arts throughout the City

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy, the Municipal Council, and the Jersey City Dept. of Health & Human Services/Division of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the Jersey City Museum, ProArts, and the Hudson Reporter, present the 2009 edition of the **Jersey City Artists Studio Tour**.

This **FREE self-guided walking tour** features galleries, artist studios and ad hoc exhibition sites from **noon - 6:00 p.m.** on the weekend of **Saturday, October 3rd** and **Sunday, October 4th**. A **Kick-off Celebration** will be held from **6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.** on **Friday, October 2nd** at **Grace Church, 39 Erie Street**.

For the past nineteen years, the **Jersey City Artists Studio Tour** has become one of Jersey City's defining cultural events, attracting artists from throughout Northeast New Jersey and the New York metropolitan area. Each year, the Studio Tour features a diverse selection of styles and artistic disciplines, from avant-garde video and sculpture to traditional oil painting.

"The Jersey City Artists Studio Tour is New Jersey's premier showcase of emerging talent and established professionals," said **Mayor Healy**. "The tour is not only a showcase of the arts, but is rather a showcase for all of Jersey City."

Visitors can also indulge in multi-ethnic cuisines at local restaurants along the tour route or simply enjoy the lively atmosphere as they stroll from one studio to the next. Every year, hundreds of artists participate in the tour attracting thousands of visitors during its two-day run.

The tour will start at the **Grove Street PATH Station** where visitors can take a **free shuttle service**. **Tour maps** will be available for the public and which can be obtained at key tour sites including the Kick-Off Celebration, Grove Street Path Station and in the Hudson Reporter up to seven days before the Studio Tour.

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Visitors will have the opportunity to meet and talk to the artists themselves. Some of the artwork on display will include painted and photographed works, sculpture, video expressionism, impressionism, and much more. The artwork will be displayed all over the city along the tour route.

Some highlights of the tour include:

- **150 Bay Street** has a variety of individual studios and group shows, including “Exquisite Corpse,” curated by Tina Maneca and features the work of more than 50 artists in a collaborative installation
- **140 Bay Street** highlights include new work by painter Kirk Bray as well as the opening of the building’s new space “The Warehouse”
- The **Morgan Industrial Center**, 350 Warren Street, returns to the studio tour with curator Dylan Evans & property owner Bob Lehrer’s colossal mural project “Raw Power, The Morgan Grand Mural,” featuring dozens of street artists from across the United States, on-site painting during the tour, and artist displays in the building parking lot
- Jim Pustorino of Victory Arts Projects curates “Conversations in the Sunken Garden” a showcase of sculpture at the **Mack Cali Atrium**, featuring a dozen artists including Arcady Kotler, Maggie Ens, and Carol Schwartz
- The **Westin Hotel** joins the tour for the first time as a venue, providing their common areas as community space for exhibiting artists. The Westin also features a great in-house art collection which includes printmaker Tomomi Ono and other Jersey City artists
- **Newport Centre Mall**, located in the Underground Station, Level 1, in the Sears wing provides exhibition space for Eric Sophie’s eclectic group exhibition that features more than a dozen artists, as well as, the Legomaster himself
- **Lex Leonard Gallery** hosts two group shows, including the Jersey City Lesbian & Gay Outreach’s group show entitled “Vital Voices,” located on the 2nd floor, curated by Miguel Cardenas
- **City Hall** celebrates Hispanic Heritage with a group show of paintings and sculptures curated by filmmaker Christina Soto
- The **Jersey City Museum**, which joins the City of Jersey City and **ProArts** as a presenting sponsor of the tour, features a full schedule of programming for the tour, a new show at the **Majestic**, and will host the Studio Tour After Party
- **Hudson County Art Supply** is a major tour stop with its already famous/infamous Ron English, Bigfoot, Jason Maloney street mural

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- **L.I.T.M.** exhibits airbrush artist Ruler in the group show entitled “99 Ways to Die”
- **9 Lives Skate Shop** opens up as a tour venue with “Board to Live”
- **Grace Church Van Vorst** hosts the ProArts members show and Kick-Off Party for the 2009 tour
- **58 Gallery** features “Masks of God,” curated by Brenda Buck and Grant Worth, which explores the spirit that lies beneath the surface of each creation. "Masks of God" makes the statement that “Spirituality is as highly personal as it is human. When we ask questions and seek answers about governing energies or a higher power, we are ultimately trying to solve the riddle of ourselves. Though varied in terms of worship, each human’s transcendental nature tells us more about our similarities than our differences.”
- There are many other **open studios** to choose from, including Dyan Egon’s “Garage Sale” at **247 Barrow Street**, and Habib Ayat’s “Art for Life” at **360 Marin Blvd.**
- **The 4th Street** festival continues to grow into an event almost as big as the studio tour itself
- **Curious Matter** offers “NYKTOMORPH,” another meticulously curated and mysterious show organized by art duo Raymond Mingst and Arthur Bruso
- The **Lafayette and McGinley Square** areas feature new clusters of artists & studios
- Diane Fleming and the **Pershing Field** Arts group curate another big group exhibition of Heights artists
- The **Beacon** returns as a tour venue featuring more than 20 painters, photographers and ceramics artists in an incredible fifth floor condo display space.

For more information, please call the Division of Cultural Affairs at (201) 547-6921 or visit www.jerseycitynj.gov

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.///